

Annual Report

MISONGA

Managing Information and Strengthening Organizations
for Networked Governance Approaches

Submitted to USAID/Madagascar
Good Governance Program in Madagascar
Cooperative Agreement n° 687-A-00-04-00134-00

Submitted by Pact, Inc.
in joint partnership with Catholic Relief Services-Madagascar

In association with:
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GRET

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AFEMM:	Association des Femmes Elues Maires de Madagascar
BAMEX :	Business And Market EXpansion
CAMM:	Chambre d'Arbitrage et de Médiation de Madagascar
CEDII:	Centre d'Echange et de Documentation Inter-Institutionnel
COP:	Chief Of Party
CORDAL:	Comité Régional de Développement Alaotra
CRD:	Comité Régional de Développement
CRS:	Catholic Relief Service
CSLCC:	Conseil Supérieur de Lutte Contre la Corruption
CSO:	Civil Society Organization
DG:	Democracy and Governance
ERI:	Eco-Regional Initiatives
EU:	European Union
FES:	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
FIANTSO:	<i>Fikambanana Andrin'ny Tambažotra sy ny Olom-pirenena</i> - Support to Citizen Networking
FY:	Fiscal Year
GIS:	Geographical Information System
GOM:	Government of Madagascar
ICT:	Information and Communication Technology
IR:	Intermediate Result
IRD:	Institut de Recherche pour le Développement
IRG:	International Resources Group
IT:	Information Technology
M&E:	Monitoring and Evaluation
MIS:	Multi-Sector Information System
MISONGA:	Managing Information and Strengthening Organizations For Networked Governance Approaches
MOT:	Ministry of Telecommunication
NGO:	Non Governmental Organization
OPCI:	Organisme Public de Coopération Intercommunale
PCD:	Plan Communal de Développement
RLIC:	Regional Learning Information Center
TI:	Transparency International
UNPD:	United Nations Program for Development
USAID:	United States Agency for International Development
USFS:	United States Forest Services
WiFi:	Wireless Fidelity

Cooperative Agreement # 687-A-00-04-00134-00

Pact Inc and Catholic Relief Services Madagascar

**Project Title:
Managing Information and Strengthening Organisations for
Networked Governance Approaches
(MISONGA)**

**Period Covered by Report:
May 25, 2004 – September 30, 2004**

Annual Report

I. Project Summary

In May 2004, Pact Inc. and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Madagascar received funding from the USAID mission in Madagascar to jointly implement the MISONGA (Managing Information and Strengthening Organisations for Networked Governance Approaches) project. This project aims to promote good governance and democracy throughout key, targeted areas of Madagascar. The total cost of the project is US \$8.2 million. Furthermore, MISONGA was designed in tangent with and parallel to USAID Madagascar's strategic objective #04 for 2003-2008, which aims to improve good governance and democracy in Madagascar.

The MISONGA project has three main objectives:

- 1) ***To promote a deeper and stronger civil society*** by strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations (CSOs). For this objective, MISONGA will work with a minimum of 50 CSOs throughout the course of the project, and will support these CSOs by providing technical support in the areas of institutional development, organisational development, advocacy, financial management, and strategic management.
- 2) ***To improve information flow*** between the citizenry and government and all stakeholders for development. This objective aims to promote a Multi-sectoral Information System (MIS), Regional Learning Information Centers (RLICS), Rural Radios and ICTs (e.g., the Internet, Wireless Fidelity Technology, etc).
- 3) ***To improve government responsiveness*** by addressing the needs and concerns of citizens. Using CSOs as arbitrators, this objective will provide technical assistance to various government actors at the national, regional, and local levels, and to help bridge the gap between citizens and government.

This is the first annual report for the MISONGA project and covers activities from 25 May 2004 to 30 September 2004. The structure of this report follows the format laid out in the MISONGA workplan approved by USAID-Madagascar. Because of the program's infancy, some activities have not yet begun.

II. Project Monitoring

Preliminary Activities

Most of the activities covered in this annual report consist of setting up and establishing the administrative portion of the MISONGA project. This includes filling vacant positions, launching the project, conducting monitoring and evaluating workshops, and encouraging team building.

1) Filling the vacant Chief of Party (COP) position. The Chief of Party (COP) position was vacant when the MISONGA project was awarded to Pact and CRS Madagascar. By the end of June, Jean Bruno Ramahefarivo was hired as the project COP. Mr. Ramahefarivo did not, however, officially start until the first of September. Because Mr. Ramahefarivo was an existing employee of CRS, he was able to lay the groundwork for this project, beginning mid-July, on a part-time basis.

2) Launching the Project. MISONGA was initially launched at the national and regional levels. The intention was to inform partners and stakeholders of MISONGA's three core objectives, and also to introduce a well-constructed mechanism for addressing democracy and good governance in Madagascar.

At the national level, the MISONGA team held a conference in Antananarivo at the Hilton on 28 June 2004. The team invited all potential partners: donors, ministries, embassies, multilateral and bilateral programs, and selected regional partners (e.g. CRD). Special guests included the President of Madagascar, the American Ambassador to Madagascar and other key government officials. These guests expressed their gratitude for and support of the project. The President's participation in the conference was particularly important because it firmly indicated his will to promote good governance and democracy in Madagascar, thus assuring the Malagasy people and all interested partners that MISONGA was the missing link to promoting good governance and a liberal democracy in Madagascar.



*MISONGA national launching
(June 28th, 2004)*

After the national launching, MISONGA was launched at the regional level in Tamatave, Anosy, and Fianarantsoa. These areas are considered as priority zones for all USAID-funded intervention. Approximately 80 representatives from NGOs, projects, local authorities (Chief of province) and mayors attended the regional launch workshops. During each, the MISONGA team presented the project and its objectives and presented areas for potential collaboration with various partners. It appeared that regional partners were interested in collaborating with MISONGA based on the responses received. As a result of the workshops, the MISONGA team was better able to refine their objectives, thus creating a roadmap for future initiatives.

3) Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop. Organized by the USAID DG office, an expert from the USAID regional office in South Africa was sent to Madagascar in order to provide technical assistance to the MISONGA team. The trainer instructed the team on methods used by USAID to monitor and evaluate indicators by identifying the types of indicators required by USAID for good governance projects and the extent to which such indicators should be presented. The Performance Management Plan Framework was

established as a result of this training session, and, as a result, the team was able to develop the M&E plan for MISONGA for the next four years.

4) MISONGA Team Building. It was imperative to conduct a team-building workshop for the MISONGA team to ensure a shared vision among all staff members, to reinforce team spirit and to initiate a common workplan. This workshop took place from June 30th – July 2nd in Antananarivo, the result was remarkable because each staff member fully understood and agreed on the objectives and the strategic approaches of MISONGA.



*MISONGA Team building
(June 30th – July 2nd)*

Workplan

Intermediate Result 1: Deeper and Stronger Civil Society

This Intermediate Result constitutes the first objective of MISONGA. Four major outcomes are expected from this objective. These outcomes have been defined to monitor the project but progress will be measured based on activities implemented throughout the life of the project. Since the project is still at its starting point few specific activities have been implemented to contribute to achieving such outcomes and the project's core objectives.

***Outcome 1:* CSO Organizational and Institutional capacities are increased.**

***Activity 1.* Identify MISONGA partners for the three IRs based on a procedure to ensure transparency**

MISONGA uses a granting mechanism to support participating CSOs. Throughout the project, MISONGA will release approximately 50 grants totaling \$1,000,000.

For the first year MISONGA began by developing selection criteria which aim to select CSOs classified under Tier I. The regional coordinators provided their input in the selection process. The selection criteria, attached in Annexes, were submitted to the USAID DG office. Their feedback and approval were received on August 27. This enabled the MISONGA team to finalize and post bids for the available grants.

The selection criteria were posted in four different newspapers for a period of ten days to invite CSOs to apply and thus indicate their interest in working with the project for the next four years. Field visits were arranged by regional coordinators in Fianarantsoa, Tamatave, and Anosy in order to ensure that all regions in targeted areas received equal consideration. Sixty communes and six regions were visited throughout the selection process. Bidding information was also posted in public places-- market-advertising boards, communes and prefecture office boards and announcements were also made on local radio stations.

Requirements for Civil Society Organization Participation in MISONGA:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Operate at the national level, or at the very least, at one of MISONGA's targeted zones 2. Contribute to MISONGA interventions 3. Have at least one year of experience with MISONGA interventions 4. Have responded to expression of interest invitation 5. Hold a status or at least a receipt, as well as internal regulations, value and mission statements and clear objectives 6. Have adequate financial and administrative experience 7. Have internal operational structure and partnership with external auditors 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Have a strategic plan for the next three years 9. Hold an existing partnership with CRS and/or Pact or other programs (USAID, UNDP, FES,...) 10. Have a permanent structure (salaried employee) 11. Have undertaken a project or currently active in a project related to good governance and democracy 12. Possess the ability to create and carry out programs 13. Be a member of a coalition 14. Have experience in advocacy 15. Have one or more funding sources (operational)

The MISONGA team has developed a manual with information pertaining to the grant mechanism. This manual is accessible only by the MISONGA team and government partners; however, comments and feedback from the team and USAID are required.

Results

There were 251 CSOs that responded to the “appel a manifestation d’interet” (call for expressions of interest). Among those eligible for tier 1 status, 40 CSOs responded to the bid; 65 CSOs responded among tier 2 and 146 CSOs among tier 3. For tier 1, only 18 CSOs will be selected for funding for fiscal year 2005. More than 50 percent of applicants were from remote communes or regions of Madagascar. The final selection was made by a specific committee composed of the COP, IR coordinators, the Grant Manager, the M&E coordinator, one representative from Pact and one representative from CRS Madagascar. Regional coordinators in Tamatave, Fianarantsoa and Fort Dauphin have carried out a preliminary selection which has been sent to the selection committee. Selection criteria, checklist and scoring matrix were developed to analyze each application in order to have an objective basis for selection.

Activity 2. Increase the managerial and institutional capacity of CSOs

This activity will take place once CSOs have been selected for the appropriate grants. This activity assesses the institutional, organizational and financial capacity of the selected CSOs in order to identify their strengths and weaknesses. Because changes were made to the existing workplan, this activity will likely begin during the second half of October once CSOs have been selected.

On 13 July 2004 MISONGA was invited to participate in a forum organized by FORMAGED (Formation en Appui de la gestion des Interventions de Developpement). FORMAGED is a EU-funded program that aims to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders working on development. One of its main objectives is to integrate gender-specific goals into its development projects.

Activity 3. Provide small grants to CSOs for the support of organizational development activities

MISONGA awarded grants to Transparency International and to the platform of civil society led by FIANISO. Additional grants for CAMM and TI will soon be awarded after the final negotiations aimed to ensure the integration of their workplans with MISONGA objectives. These organizations were all voted as potential Tier I CSOs in the MISONGA proposal.

Results

MISONGA assisted Transparency International in the development of their Strategic Plan (and budget) that MISONGA will utilize in order to monitor the work of Transparency International. The document is being finalized and the grant should be awarded by the end of October. In addition, MISONGA has advanced six months of TI office rent, the payment of the permanent personnel salary and supported its staff to travel to a regional TI meeting in Nairobi.

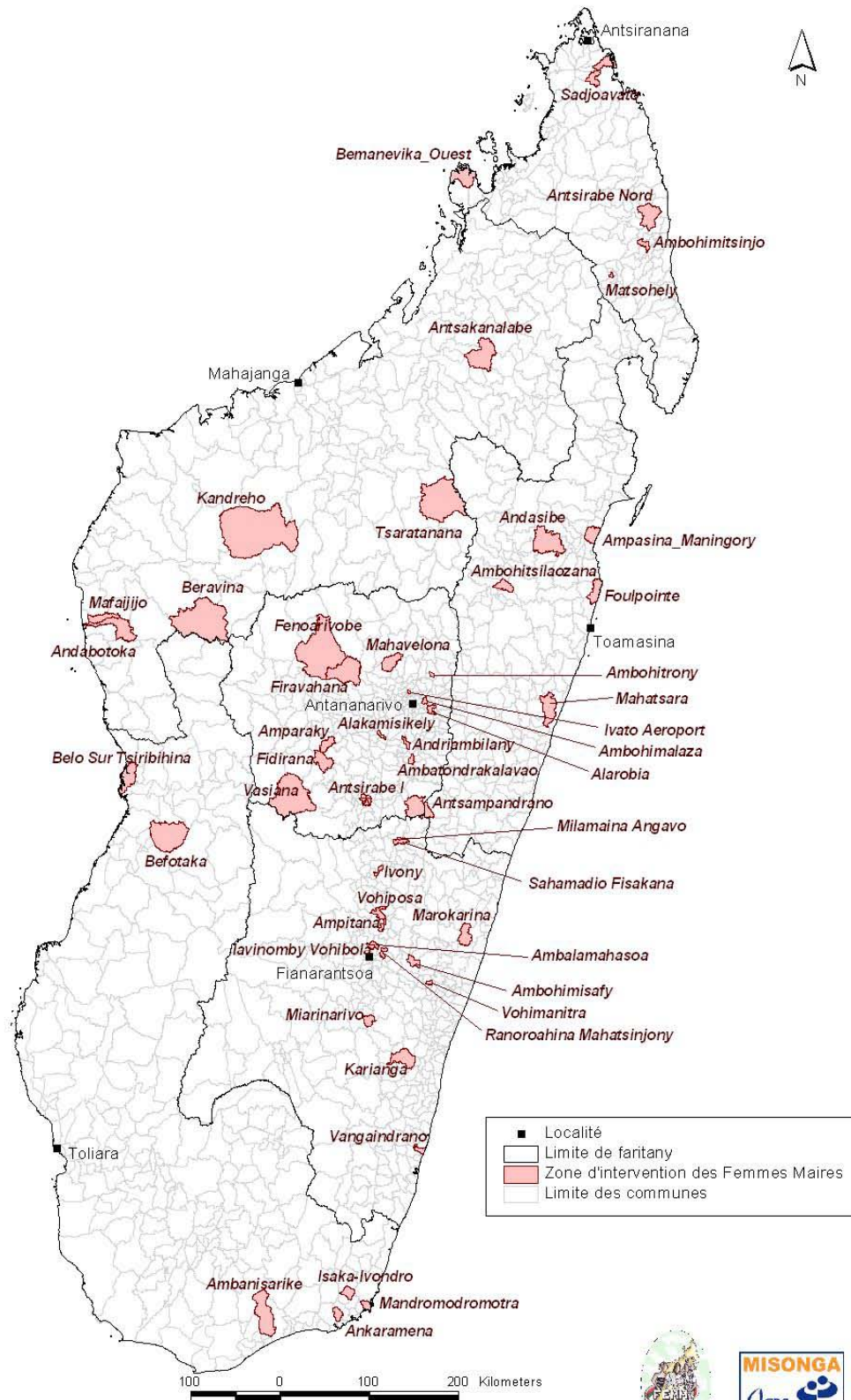
MISONGA also co-financed a workshop organized by TI in Antananarivo from September 28th to October 1st 2004, entitled “Public Contracting Training”, as well as supported travel costs for TI staff to attend international meetings and training on anti-corruption in Kenya.

CAMM (Chambre d’Arbitrage et de Mediation de Madagascar), a USAID-funded non-governmental organization, has partnered up with MISONGA. The intention is to help CAMM define their strategic goals for the next three years as well as to establish a feasible budget that corresponds to their intended plan of action.

MISONGA awarded a grant to AFEMM (Association des FEMMES MAIRES de Madagascar) to develop their strategic plan for three years. The intention is to help them refine their plan of action. The MISONGA team, in collaboration with AFEMM, organized a three-day workshop in Antananarivo, bringing together 62 female mayors stationed throughout the country (see map 1). Officials from the Ministry of Justice, CSLCC and donors participated in the workshop, providing their professional input and technical assistance to help AFEMM better articulate their strategy. This is now complete.

MISONGA will organize a training workshop for female mayors in Fianarantsoa on 25-29 October. MISONGA is also assisting AFEMM to diversify and increase its funding, and, as a result of these efforts, the Swiss embassy has awarded AFEMM-- through the coordination of MISONGA-- the amount of \$16,000. An institutional and organizational assessment will be implemented in FY 05 to monitor AFEMM’s progress.

LOCALISATION DES COMMUNES AVEC DES MAIRES FEMMES



Source : BD 500/FTM, AFEMM
 Réalisation : MISONGA Information Service, Août 2004

Map 1 : Communes managed by AFEMM members

Outcome 2: CSO Advocacy capacity is increased

Activity 1. To establish an advocacy capacity evaluation system with CSOs

An advocacy manual will be translated from English to French by the end of October so that it can be accessible to and understood by the MISONGA team and its partners. It should be reported that an advocacy training session scheduled for this reporting period had been postponed due to USAID-approved changes to the workplan.

Outcome 3: CSO networks and linkages are strengthened

Activity 1. To promote and develop CSOs platforms

MISONGA provided support to FIANTSO, which is leading the committee to set up a national platform for CSOs, was funded to carry out the regional and national awareness workshop. The creation and existence of platforms and coalitions is a central component to MISONGA, particularly in achieving its objective on strengthening linkages and networks among CSOs. This initiative, launched by UNDP, funded the first national workshop to form coalitions. MISONGA and UNDP will be co-funding the regional and national workshop to educate regional CSOs on the importance of building coalitions and establishing platforms.

Result

The first regional workshop was held in Tamatave on September 20th and 21st. It gathered 50 CSOs from the northern part of Madagascar (i.e., Diego, Majunga, Tamatave). The workshop allowed participants to raise questions on the extent to which platforms should be organized and ways to define strategic goals and values.

The same workshop will be held in the southern part of Madagascar, including Toliara, Fianarantsoa, and Antananarivo. The series of workshop will end in Antananarivo to wrap up all ideas and suggestions from the regions so as to form strategies at the national level.

Participating in this workshop is key for MISONGA in terms of strategy and partnership because this will strengthen the existing CSOs, which will benefit the grant mechanism in the region of Fianarantsoa, Tamatave and Fort-Dauphin.

Outcome 4: Application of Gender lens in development and advocacy activities is improved

Activity 1. To develop tools to integrate gender-approach in development activities and advocacy

Nothing to report at this time.

Intermediate Result 2: Increased Information flows

Outcome 1: Multi-sector Information service is established

Activity 1. MIS assists CSOs, government counterparts, and key partners to use Information for analysis and decision-making

The priority was given to develop a scope of work for a baseline survey. It was finally decided that a consultant firm will be sought to carry out this activity. An ad was posted in various newspapers to recruit the firm best qualified to undertake this study. The selected consultant is expected to have the financial and technical expertise to carry out the survey.

The new regional chief of Haute Matsiatra in the province of Fianarantsoa contacted MISONGA. The purpose of this solicitation was to provide the regional chief with technical assistance in producing GIS maps and processing information. The new regional chief received assistance in the decision-making process related to strategies for the newly selected regions. MISONGA provided the chief with an expert to reorganize the database and to produce the first maps. Inter-cooperation Suisse is co-funding this initiative by providing a permanent consultant who will help the regional chief with the day-to-day management of the database.

Result

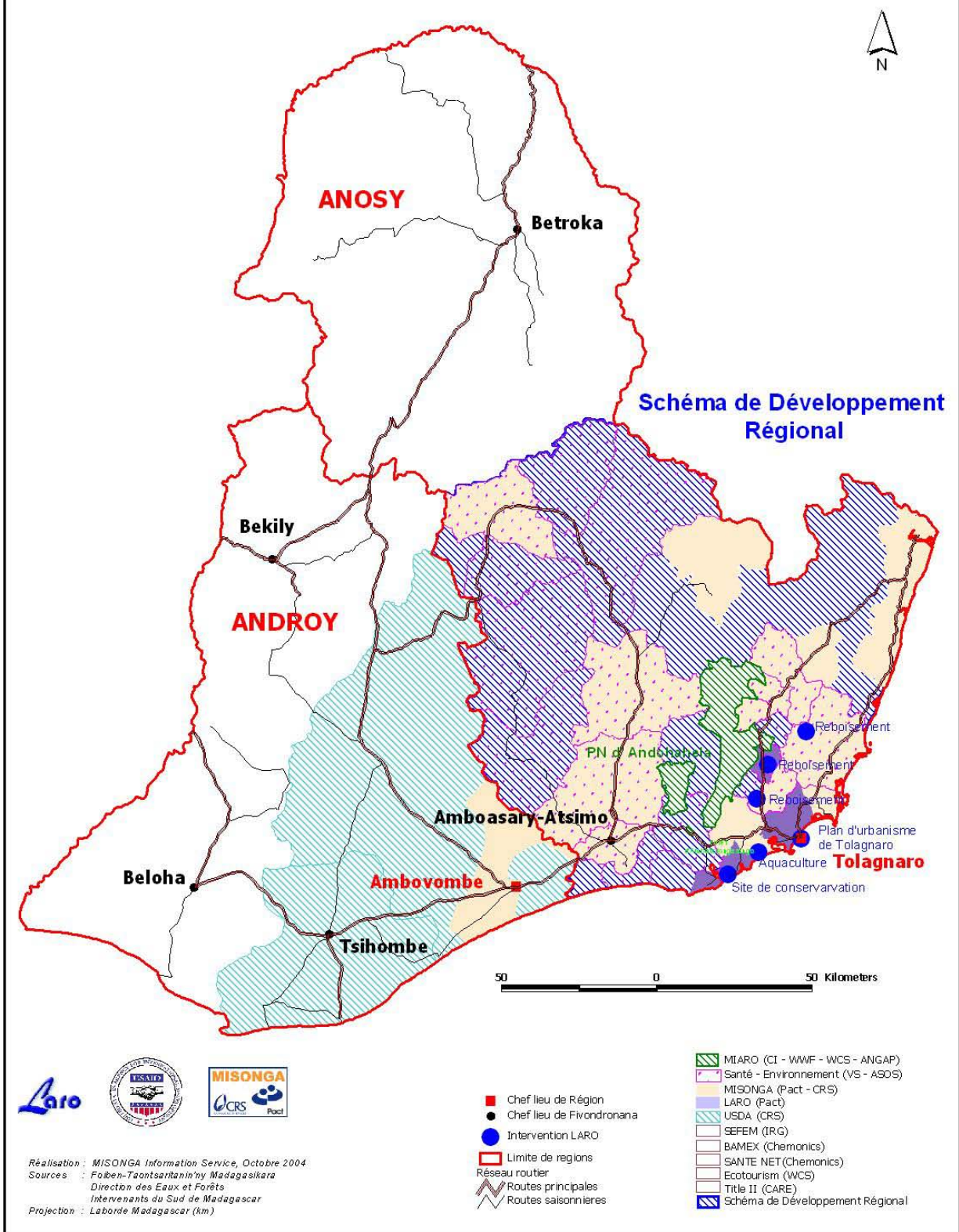
Five firms have responded to the ad. A committee consisting of IR coordinators, the M&E coordinator, and the COP has carefully selected ATW, an international firm with a branch based in Madagascar, as its final candidate. ATW was selected based on its qualifications and experiences. The anticipated cost of the survey is \$20,000, and the survey is expected to last 45 days beginning October 11th.

During this start-up phase, MIS has begun identifying “focal point” resource persons and partners for each region in the targeted zones, and within some key ministries, which will help facilitate the future implementation of the information-related activities at the national and regional level. MIS has initiated many contacts and discussions aimed at sharing expertise and leveraging resources with many partners, including:

- ERI/Fianarantsoa: Support to CMP for information related to Fianarantsoa forest corridor
- Swiss Embassy: GIS system of the Chef de Region Haut Matsiatra (Fianarantsoa)
- IRD: Information related to the population-environment linkages in the Fianarantsoa region
- BAMEX: Market/Trade information in the Fianarantsoa region
- ERI/Tamatave: Information related to “Morazaka” forest corridor
- IRG/SEFEM: Information unit of the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forest
- AGETIPA: Information to support participatory planning in Fort-Dauphin

The next step is to set up an internal USAID/DG-MISONGA team workshop to discuss and finalize the MIS strategy, structure and communication plan.

Interventions des projets de l'USAID



Map 2 : USAID-Funded Interventions in the new Anosy and Androy regions

Activity 2. MIS reinforces the availability of and facilitates the access to the information needed by CSOs and government partners at both the national and local levels

Nothing to report at that time.

Activity 3. MIS generates and reinforces the production of sector-specific and cross-cutting information

MISONGA was contacted by the office of the president to provide GIS information on the deforestation status and data concerning bushfire in Madagascar. Such information significantly assisted the president's office in approaching potential donors including the World Bank.

Many maps were also produced by MIS to assist partners as needed, like the USAID intervention in the priority zones (see Map 2).

Outcome 2: Regional/Rural actor's access to information center is increased

Activity 1. To develop and reinforce RLICs REGIONAL LEARNING INFORMATION CENTER

MISONGA selected the CEDII of Fianarantsoa as the first RLIC to be supported. Meetings took place with the CEDII director and Board members to review the situation and the perspectives. The positive aspects were related to the strong involvement of the key board members, representing the commune of Fianarantsoa, the Region Haut Matsiatra and the University. The main issues identified are related to the weak the management and marketing capacities.

In addition, MISONGA played a key role to facilitate the partnership between BAMEX and CEDII where BAMEX will be hosted at the CEDII during the life of the project and will contribute to its operational costs as well as reinforce the role of CEDII as a key provider of regional information.

Activity 2. To promote the use of mass communications especially rural radio and information tools for community mobilization

In early 2004, stakeholders (PTE, KOLOHARENA, OPCI, CMP) working around the forest Corridor in Fianarantsoa area (see Map 3) initiated the Radio corridor project, which provides community members and partners with information on strategies to communicate and educate citizens on preserving the national forest. Basic information pertaining to development was also provided.



Forest corridor of Fianarantsoa

Several workshops have been organized to develop this initiative. The key finding from these workshops was that locals need a powerful radio capable of reaching the surrounding regions, from Fianarantsoa to Manakara. An institutional concept has been proposed but no technical study has been carried out to determine the technical options for the radio.

MISONGA has been involved in this initiative since its launching in July and has led the process from there. MISONGA hired a consulting firm, Andrew Lees Trust, from South Africa with the expertise and experience to carry out this project, particularly in the southern region of Madagascar.

The study was initiated on September 23rd and ended October 4th. Globecom, a consulting firm, covered the entire regions of Fianarantsoa by interviewing 18 radio stations and meeting with all stakeholders.

Results

Several options have been presented during the debriefing with the consultant but the definitive options will be presented in the final report that will be delivered by the end of October.

Activity 3. To reinforce the professional capacities of regional and rural journalists

This activity is planned for fiscal year 2005 to follow up the radio corridor initiative. MISONGA has contacted the KHULUMA project, currently operating out of the Radio France International office in Paris. The KHULUMA project aims to provide a multitude of services on independent radio promotion ranging from installations, journalist training, program production, and broadcasting. This provides MISONGA with an opportunity to promote independent radio in rural areas for information access. The IR2 team is studying the possibility of working with KHULUMA.

Globecom consultancy on site :

18 Radio Stations were visited during this study:

- Fianarantsoa (27th September – 28th September): Radio Fy, Radio MBS, Radio Mampita, RTVF, Radio Matsiatra (RNM), Radio Jiro sy Fanasina
- Mananjary (28th September): Radio Sambatra and Radio Soleil
- Manakara (29th September): Radio Ravinala and Radio MBS
- Farafangana (29th September): Radio Soanala
- Ihosy (30th September) Radio AVEC and Radio Jupiter
- Ilakaka (30th September): Radio Maherlla and Radio Jupiter
- Ambohimahasoia (2nd October): Radio Ny Ainga
- Ambositra (2nd October): Radio Akon'ny Faritr'i Mania and Radio Feon'I Mania

Outcome 3: Environment supportive of ICT is created

Activity 1. To assist with the installation and exploitation of specific technologies (Wi-Fi)

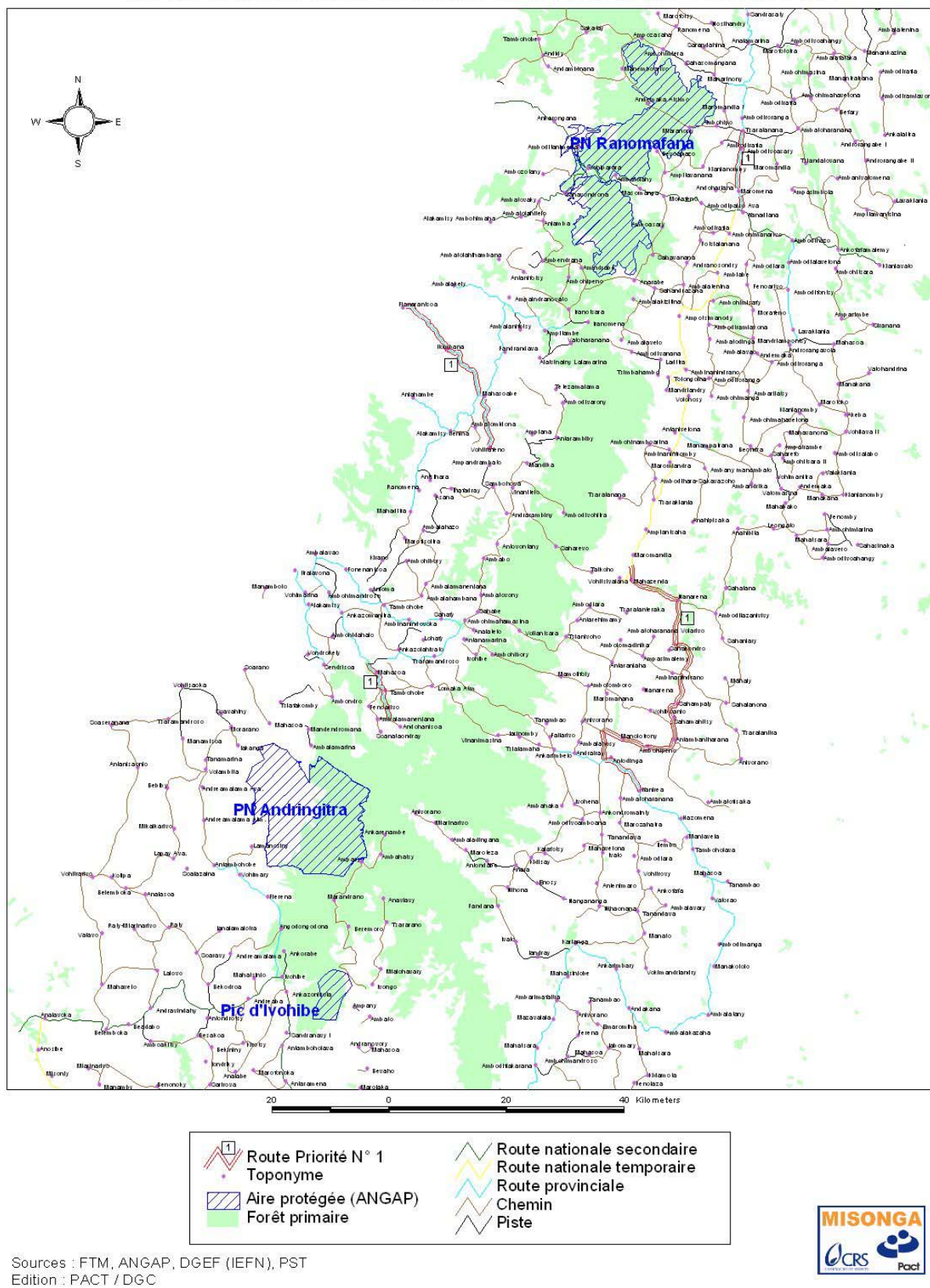
MISONGA has actively participated in every workshop organized by the Ministry of Telecommunication (MOT) and the presidency to consider the legal framework of ICT in Madagascar. A special series of meetings have been recently organized by the MOT to establish the legal framework and the strategy to set up e-government in Madagascar.

The coordinator of the Last Mile Initiative paid a visit to members of the MISONGA team during the last week of September to determine the possibility of bringing ICT, and especially Wi-Fi technology, to the remotest areas of Madagascar. Jeff Cochrane, the coordinator of the Last Mile Initiative, announced a US \$500,000 grant to carry out this project. The next step to take is to bring an ICT expert to discuss the legal issues with the president and vice prime minister of Madagascar. The MISONGA team and Mr. Cochrane met with IKONGO in Fianarantsoa where the government has already set up a telecenter pilot project.

Activity 2. To promote the use of ICT in the regions of intervention and key themes through RLICs and user groups

Nothing to report at this time.

PISTES RURALES DANS LE CORRIDOR RANOMAFANA - ANDRINGITRA



Map 3 : Forest Corridor Fianarantsoa

Intermediate result 3: Increased Government Responsiveness

Outcome 1: Government management and outreach capacities are increased

Activity 1. Strengthen the negotiating, mediating, and advocacy capacity of communes and decentralization services in sectoral program management

The MISONGA team has established the criteria to select qualified communes and decentralization services based on their real motivation for governance in targeted zones.

MISONGA, in collaboration with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, will bring technical support to 60 mayors in the province of Fianarantsoa and Tamatave to strengthen the negotiating, mediating, and advocacy capacity of communes and decentralization services in sectoral program management. This activity is scheduled to begin by the end of October.

Activity 2. To assist in public consultation on conception and implementation of sectoral policies and commune activities (budget, taxes)

This activity will be part of the FES intervention and part of the support that MISONGA will bring to the ministry of decentralization. MISONGA and FES plan to work with seven pilot communes to train them on strategic planning, budgeting, and PCDS. FES will begin its activity by training the Femmes-maires on PCD and strategic planning in collaboration with MISONGA experts.

Outcome 2: Structures and mechanisms for citizen's participations are improved

Activity 1. To establish village and regional-level dialogue structures and stimulates the OPCI

From August to September, the MISONGA team participated in different workshops organized by various platforms/structures at the national and regional levels. The team presented their Regional Development Plan on July 7th at the workshop organized by the CRD Anosy. Several contacts and courtesy visits were made by the regional coordinators with CORDAL (Alaotra), CRD Mangoro, CRD Anosy, and CMP Fianarantsoa to determine the extent of MISONGA's ability to contribute to building capacity. Furthermore, MISONGA supported CRD Mangoro to develop its regional development plan.



Workshop with partners in Fianarantsoa

Activity 2. To stimulate development action plans and regional investment programs integrated into the national programming

MISONGA supported many initiatives during this reporting period. Those worth mentioning are:

1. In Toamasina, the team participated in the development of the Provincial Development Plan. This document has not yet been finalized. MISONGA will assist the Faritany in the finalization of this plan.

2. MISONGA has supported CRD Mangoro to develop their regional development plan. MISONGA has contributed to the duplication and the dissemination of regional development plans (Mangoro, Tamatave, Anosy) that constitute the basis of the “regional concertation” workshop organized for the setting of the new regions.

Activity 3. To assist in restoration of *dinam-pokonolona* as a development management tool

Nothing to report at this time.

Activity 4. To support the Ministry of Decentralization in defining the relationship between dialogue structures and decentralization

MISONGA actively participated in a workshop organized by the Ministry of Decentralization by providing its expertise on lessons learned. This workshop, which took place from September 2-3, focused on the regional planning process supported by the Ministry of Decentralization.

Activity 5. To provide small grants to support structures and mechanisms for citizen participation

MISONGA is planning to support CRDs and all dialogue mechanisms existing in Madagascar. This is an ongoing initiative carried out with CRD MANGORO, CRD Tamatave, and CORDAL in Ambatondrazaka.

Outcome 3: Government responsiveness in the provision of social services is improved

MISONGA is bringing technical support to the Ministry of Interior by developing strategies to help them implement their business plan for providing better services. A workshop will be organized to gather donors and other partners to help the MIRA to improve the ministry’s service delivery.

Activity 1. To strengthen communes’ supervising capacity to strengthen communes’ supervising capacity

Nothing to report at this time, but this activity will start with the women mayor workshop in Fianarantsoa.

Activity 2. To provide small grants to support government responsiveness in the provision of social services

MISONGA is helping the Ministry of Interior to develop their strategic plan and to raise more funds to support their business plan.

MISONGA is providing technical assistance and organizing workshops to gather donors and other partners working with the Ministry.

Outcome 4: E-Government pilot project is implemented

Activity 1. To facilitate establishment, adoption, and publication of cyber-administration norms

Nothing to report at this time.

Intermediate result 4: Anticorruption

Outcome 1: Emergence of the Anti-Corruption Agency

The creation of the independent agency to fight corruption is a key strategy for the government of Madagascar. MISONGA has been solicited by the CSLCC to offer financial and technical support to the emergence of BIANCO. MISONGA has funded the communication component in creating and establishing BIANCO. An SPCS expert conducted training exercises with BIANCO, and the equivalent of BIANCO in France was funded by MISONGA to train BIANCO staff members on “passation de Marché.”

Outcome 2: Communication strategy is developed and implemented

The CSLCC has developed a communication strategy for curtailing corruption in Madagascar. MISONGA was funded to develop the tools and the IEC materials for this campaign. MISONGA also funded the dissemination of the convention signed by the stakeholders in IAVOLOHA.

The National Convention to fight corruption was held in Iavoloha on July 20, 2004. After regional workshops, this National Convention aimed to officially present the “Stratégie Nationale de Lutte Contre la Corruption” and to encourage participation from different entities through the signature of the National Convention. There were 800 attendees at the workshop, and 482 government authorities and CSOs signed the Convention.

Outcome 3: Anti-Corruption laws are adopted and publicized

MISONGA will support the baseline survey that will be co-funded with PGDI (World Bank) and UNDP. This survey aims to identify the perceptions of corruption by the population and identify the problem at the national level. This is very important for the CSLCC because it will help the team to assess its indicators. MISONGA will provide technical assistance to the survey and is expected to contribute at least \$50,000 to the initiative.

Outcome 4: Civil Society in anti-corruption initiatives strengthened

MISONGA’s actions thus far have been focused on helping TI and CAMM. As previously mentioned, MISONGA aims to strengthen the institutional and organizational capacity of these organizations.

MISONGA provided Transparency International with a small grant to help support the workshop jointly organized with TI Berlin. This workshop helped train government officials on public contracting. This workshop was held in Antananarivo from September 28 to October 1.

MISONGA also supported a member of TI Madagascar to attend the General assembly and workshop in Nairobi Kenya from October 8-13. The workshop was designed for African countries and its focus was on budget management and government service delivery.